

# MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT



## *Office of Public Information*

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### **ANGELS IN ADOPTION™ PROGRAM HONORS JUSTICE MAURA CORRIGAN; HER WORK ON MICHIGAN ADOPTION DAY, FOSTER CARE REFORMS CITED**

LANSING, MI, September 13, 2005 – Michigan Supreme Court Justice Maura D. Corrigan’s work on behalf of foster children, including her efforts to promote adoption, are being recognized with an “Angels in Adoption” award from the non-partisan Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (CCAI). She and other honorees will be recognized at the CCAI’s awards banquet tonight in Washington, D.C.

Corrigan said she was grateful for the honor, adding, “More importantly, I hope that the ‘Angels in Adoption’ program continues to remind us all of the children who stand in dire need of our love and support.”

Angels in Adoption™ is CCAI’s signature public awareness program. Any member of the U.S. Congress may nominate constituents who have enriched the lives of foster children and orphans. Established in 1999, the program began as a congressional press conference. Since then, the program has developed into a yearlong public awareness campaign culminating in the awards celebration in Washington.

Corrigan, who was nominated by CCAI co-chair and president U.S. Rep. Dave Camp (R-Midland), will be honored for establishing the annual Michigan Adoption Day in 2003. Corrigan created the statewide event to promote public awareness of the adoption process and the need of Michigan’s foster children for permanent homes. Most courts participating in Michigan Adoption Day finalize adoptions and hold celebrations for the families. Other courts hold “adoption fairs” with handouts and other information. On Michigan Adoption Day 2004, 42 counties finalized 339 adoptions. This year’s Michigan Adoption Day is set for November 22, the Tuesday before Thanksgiving.

In addition, Corrigan recently served as an associate member of the Pew Commission on Foster Care, which recommended improvements to foster care funding and courts’ handling of child protection cases. She was also honored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for significant improvements to Michigan’s child support enforcement program. In May 2005, The Detroit News named Corrigan a “Michiganiaan of the Year” for her work on behalf of foster children.

“Justice Maura Corrigan has been a tireless advocate for foster care and adoption in Michigan, and throughout the country,” said Camp. “She has used her position on the Michigan Supreme Court to improve the lives of thousands of children, and is to be commended for her work. It is a privilege for me to nominate Justice Corrigan as an Angel in Adoption.”

Each year, more than 160 members of Congress participate in the “Angels in Adoption” program. Since the program’s inception in 1999, members of Congress have awarded more than 720 congressional “Angels in Adoption” from all 50 states. At tonight’s banquet, Corrigan and other “Angels” will join “National Angels” who are recognized for their adoption and foster care work on a broader scale. This year’s National Angels are First Lady Laura Bush; actress Victoria Rowell, founder of The Rowell Foster Children’s Positive Plan; recording artists Jars of Clay, who founded the Blood: Water Mission; and Sesame Workshop.

CCAI was created in 2001 by the active co-chairs of the bicameral, bipartisan Congressional Coalition on Adoption (CCA) to raise Congressional and public awareness about adoption. In addition to Camp, Senator Larry Craig, Senator Mary Landrieu, and Congressman Jim Oberstar serve as both congressional directors of CCAI and the co-chairs of the CCA.

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